(c) whether Government propose to do away with this reduction and restore the earlier wheat and rice quota; and

(d) if so, by when; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b) Under the Targeted Public distribution System (TPDS) which was launched from June, 1997 the monthly quotas of rice and wheat to all the States/UTs has been fixed so as to provide foodgrains to the pupulation living below poverty line (BPL) @10 k.g per family per month at specially subsidised rates. The BPL pupulation in each State/UT has been worked out on the estimates of the Planning Commission based upon the methodology of 'Expert Group on estimation of proportion and number of poor' under the Chairmanship of Late Prof. Lakdawala. Transitory allocation of foodgrains for pupulation above Poverty Line (APL) is also being made which has been fixed on the basis of the past lifting of foodgrains in the States/Uts. On this basis the monthly quota of foodgrains fixed under TPDS for Assam is 55,300 tonnes which is lower than the pre-TPDS (May, 97) monthly allocation of 58,000 tonnes. In addition, however, 15,000 tonnes of rice and 10,000 tonnes of wheat per month is allotted to Assam as additional allocation under TPDS.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Under TPDS the BPL & APL quotas of foodgrains are fixed for all States/UTs, and revision only for Assam is not proposed. States/UTs are, however, allotted additional allocations of rice and wheat at Central Issue Prices applicable for APL families keeping in view the requests/needs of the States/UTs, and the availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool.

Recruitment and service rules for IGNCA employees

*452. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether proper Recruitment and Service rules have been framed for the employees of IGNCA:

(b) if not, the reasons for not doing so as the Centre has been in existence for over fourteen years;

(c) the exact time-frame by when these rules are likely to be framed and implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MAHONAR JOSHI): (a) According to the imformation furnished by the IGNCA Recruitment Rules were framed for all posts except short-term posts relating to the UNDP Project. Further IGNCA follows the service rules of the Central Government.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Destruction and Smuggling of Forest Wealth

*453. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale destruction and smuggling of forest wealth in Orissa and other States;

(b) whether such incidents are taking place even in the sanctuaries and national parks; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to curb such incidents and to preserve the valuable forest resources, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) As intimated by the State Government of Orissa it is not a fact that large scale